

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 - 48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device connected to the processor, wherein the storage device has stored thereon a program, wherein the processor is configured operative to execute instructions of the program to implement a method comprising the steps of:

 updating, at successive update times, virus definitions for resources stored on a data processing system;

 scanning the resources for viruses in first and second scanning instances responsive to the virus definitions updated at respective first and second ones of the update times;

 computing hash values for the resources at the first and second update times;

 classifying each of the resources as higher or lower priority responsive to whether the hash values for each resource are equal for the first and second update times and whether the scanning determines each resource is virus free in both the first and second scanning instances;

determining a scanning interval from a time of the first scanning instance until a time of the second scanning instance;

updating the virus definitions at a next update time; and

scanning resources for viruses in a next scanning instance responsive to the virus definitions updated at the next time, wherein in the next scanning instance the ones of the resources classified as higher priority are scanned ~~before the ones of the resources classified as lower priority and the scanning of the higher priority resources in the next instance includes scanning~~ i) resources determined to be virus free in both the first scanning instance and the second scanning instance but not having equal hash values in the first and second update times, ii) resources determined to be virus free in both the first scanning instance and the second scanning instance and having equal hash values in the first and second update times but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold, iii) resources determined to be virus free in the first scanning instance and having equal hash values in the first and second update times but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold, and iv) resources determined to be virus free in the second scanning instance but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold.

50. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the data processing system has activity intervals of higher and lower activity and in the next scanning instance

the scanning of the ones of the resources classified as lower priority is performed during one of the lower activity intervals.

51. (canceled)

52. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein in the next scanning instance the ones of the resources classified as lower priority are not scanned.

53. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:

 updating, at successive update times, virus definitions for resources stored on a data processing system;

 scanning the resources for viruses in first and second scanning instances responsive to the virus definitions updated at respective first and second ones of the update times;

 computing hash values for the resources at the first and second update times;

 classifying each of the resources as higher or lower priority responsive to whether the hash values for each resource are equal for the first and second update times and whether the scanning determines each resource is virus free in both the first and second scanning instances;

determining a scanning interval from a time of the first scanning instance until a time of the second scanning instance;

updating the virus definitions at a next update time; and

scanning the resources for viruses in a next scanning instance responsive to the virus definitions updated at the next time, wherein in the next scanning instance the ones of the resources classified as higher priority are scanned ~~before the ones of the resources classified as lower priority and the scanning of the higher priority resources in the next instance includes scanning~~ i) resources determined to be virus free in both the first scanning instance and the second scanning instance but not having equal hash values in the first and second update times, ii) resources determined to be virus free in both the first scanning instance and the second scanning instance but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold, iii) resources determined to be virus free in the first scanning instance and having equal hash values in the first and second update times but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold, and iv) resources determined to be virus free in the second scanning instance and having equal hash values in the first and second update times but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the data processing system has activity intervals of higher and lower activity and in the next scanning instance the scanning of the ones of the resources classified as lower priority is performed during one of the lower activity intervals.

55. (canceled)

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein in the next scanning instance the ones of the resources classified as lower priority are not scanned.

57. (currently amended) A computer program product including stored on a tangible, computer readable medium, said computer readable medium program product having instructions stored thereon for execution by a computer system, wherein the instructions, when executed by the computer system, cause the computer system to implement a method comprising the steps of:

 updating, at successive update times, virus definitions for resources stored on a data processing system;

 scanning the resources for viruses in first and second scanning instances responsive to the virus definitions updated at respective first and second ones of the update times;

 computing hash values for the resources at the first and second update times;

 classifying each of the resources as higher or lower priority responsive to whether the hash values for each resource are equal for the first and second update times and whether the scanning determines each resource is virus free in both the first and second scanning instances;

determining a scanning interval from a time of the first scanning instance until a time of the second scanning instance;

updating the virus definitions at a next update time; and

scanning the resources for viruses in a next scanning instance responsive to the virus definitions updated at the next time, wherein in the next scanning instance the ones of the resources classified as higher priority are scanned before the ones of the resources ~~classified as lower priority and the scanning of the higher priority resources in the next instance includes scanning~~ i) resources determined to be virus free in both the first scanning instance and the second scanning instance but not having equal hash values in the first and second update times, ii) resources determined to be virus free in both the first scanning instance and the second scanning instance but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold, iii) resources determined to be virus free in the first scanning instance and having equal hash values in the first and second update times but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold, and iv) resources determined to be virus free in the second scanning instance and having equal hash values in the first and second update times but wherein the scanning interval is less than a predetermined threshold.

58. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the data processing system has activity intervals of higher and lower activity and in the next scanning instance the scanning of the ones of the resources classified as lower priority is performed during one of the lower activity intervals.

59. (canceled)

60. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 57, wherein in the next scanning instance the ones of the resources classified as lower priority are not scanned.